

# Most Perilous Intersections Cited in Annual List of Traffic Mishaps

The intersections of 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. and Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St. were the most dangerous in Torrance during the past year.

At each of them, 41 traffic accidents occurred, according to police traffic bureau records.

In second place, as far as claiming traffic toll, was the intersection of Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds., while Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Blvd. followed as the third most dangerous corner.

They accounted for 35 and 29 accidents, respectively.

During the past 12 months, a total of 1523 traffic accidents of all kinds occurred in Torrance. Lt. Don Nash, head of the traffic bureau, said

Of these, seven included fatalities, while 423 involved injuries. The remaining 1100 resulted in property damage of varying degree.

During 1957, 1166 accidents of all types were reported, including eight fatalities. In 1956, there were 15 traffic deaths out of 887 accidents of all types.

Traffic bureau officers issued 9690 traffic citations, other than parking violations during 1958. In addition, an undetermined number were issued by patrol units.

The majority of the accidents during 1958 occurred between 4 and 11 p. m., accounting for 675. The next most perilous period was between 8 a. m. and 3 p. m., when 620 accidents were reported, and 228 happened between

midnight and 7 a. m.

Of the fatalities, two were pedestrians, two involved right-of-way violations, two vehicles were on the wrong side of the street, and one involved reckless driving and speeding, Nash said.

He pointed out that since signals have been installed at Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St., the number of accidents at that location have been reduced recently. Three-phase signals at Crenshaw Blvd. at 174th St. and Pacific Coast Highway, have been requested to cut the danger in left-turn collisions at these locations.

Nash pointed out that these traffic studies assist officers in concentrating on the danger points which will be cited in monthly bulletins.

## Bandits Net Dope In Holdup

Two masked gunmen who may have been so hopped up that one of them became ill during the pickup, robbed the Alondra Drug Store, 18908 Prairie Ave., Wednesday night.

The youthful pair managed to elude a police dragnet and escaped with \$1000 in cash and a hefty supply of morphine, demerol and codeine tablets.

"O.K., man, let's go where the morphine is," they growled at Druggist Robert Crowe, training a pistol on him and a clerk, Caron Ayala.

During the robbery a customer, Laverne Foster, arrived and was herded into a restroom with the two employees when the gunmen left.

The holdup was observed by Foster's mother, who was parked outside, and called police.

Upon leaving the robbers, whose faces were concealed by handkerchiefs over the lower part of their faces, ordered the three victims to remain in the restroom for five minutes.



FLYING FISH—Handlers from Marineland are shown unloading one of six porpoises received by Marineland as part of a swap for a Pacific whale. The porpoises will be groomed as stars in an entertainment act.

## Officials Hit by Council

Allegation of "empire building" by the Recreation Department was one of four verbal spankings given by Councilmen to department heads this week.

Councilman George Bradford wondered "if they're real smart in the Recreation Department" in teaching craft courses which may be duplicated by the adult high school program.

He charged that Director Harry B. Van Bellehem might be building an empire.

Water Supt. A. E. McVicar drew the ire of Councilman Willys Blount for his absence at a Council meeting in which water department activities were to be discussed.

"When Mr. McVicar has business before us, he should be instructed to be here," Blount said.

Councilman Robert Jahn demanded a complete report from acting City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop to determine if any errors were made in the engineering or construction of the new Hollywood Riviera storm drain, following complaints that a nearby apartment house was flooded during the last rain.

"I want the names of those who made the error, if an error was made," Jahn demanded.

John V. Russell, director of public works, promised a report Tuesday on allegations that trash clogged a culvert in WALTERIA for several months and that when the rain came, it flooded an area not usually flooded.

## Commission Sets Hearing On Fire Fighters' Charges

A hearing on a fireman's complaint that he was by-passed in a recent promotional appointment will be conducted by the Civil Service Commission Jan. 23, unless City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier raises legal objections.

The hearing was requested by Local 1138 of the Fire Fighters' Union in behalf of Engineer Jerry R. Hollomon, who was skipped over for promotion to captain although he was top man on the eligibility list.

## Slide Problem Hearing Called

A hearing on a solution to land slippage in the Victoria Knolls area will be held by the City Council Jan. 27.

Although City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier and James Hall, a special counsel, have ruled the city is not liable for the erosion which threatens at least one hillside home, some councilmen asserted the city has a moral responsibility to solve the problem.

"This legal thing doesn't have a blamed thing to do. We should quit beating around the bush. It's a shame to have let it go on as long as this," Councilman J. A. Beasley declared.

He cited that the city has a problem of streets, water and sewer lines and a water reservoir to consider in the damage that is being caused by the slide.

## Plans Made For 1959 Fund Drive for Mary Hospital

More than 20 business, industrial and medical leaders of the South Bay, meeting at the Advisory Board of the Little Company of Mary Hospital, laid plans for the campaign to raise additional funds for the new 150-bed hospital. It is expected that the cost of completion and furnishing of the new institution will run in excess of \$3,000,000.

In reporting on the Open House which was held at the hospital site in December, John Melville, chairman of the event, stated more than 2000 visited the building.

Robert I. Plomert Jr., president of the advisory board, commended the press for their excellent coverage of the Open House.

Dr. Vincent J. Rounds stated the staff for the new hospital is currently being organized. More than 200 doctors have expressed a desire to serve on the staff of the hospital.

George Leverenz, construction superintendent, reported that construction is proceeding according to schedule and that the building will be completed in July. Terrazzo is currently being laid on the basement and first floor levels. The elevators will be installed and inspected within the next three weeks, according to Leverenz.

Plomert announced the appointment of G. L. Revell, John Ebbinghouse and Leverenz to the advisory board.

Sam Levy was appointed chairman of a committee to contact local service clubs and enlist their support.

SEEK SIDEWALKS  
A request to install sidewalks on the west side of Prairie Ave. was referred to City Manager George Stevens

## Rules for Council to Be Considered Again

For the second time in six months, City Councilmen will be asked to adopt a set of written rules to regulate their own conduct at meetings.

The rules, which were tabled for further study several months ago, will again be placed on the agenda Tuesday by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier.

He insisted that the rules do not really change the conduct of meetings, but are designed to put them in writing for future reference.

One rule that received considerable objection the last time was one that would automatically count all abstaining votes as affirmative unless the councilman failed to vote because of a business interest.



INSTALLATION—New officers of the Torrance Kiwanis Club are being installed by Tom Mills, left, lieutenant-governor of Division 19. Others are Johnny Johnson, president; Ray Noel, first vice-president; and Tom Wilkes, second vice-president. Not shown are Dean Virden, secretary, and Clint Meadway, treasurer. Will Stokes, Inglewood water engineer, will address the club Jan. 19 on the proposed water replenishment district.

## School Aide Seized With Big Drug Haul

A military school employe was arrested here Thursday night, when he picked up a haul of 7000 sleeping pills and "bennies" sent to a Torrance business by a Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm.

## Boy Starts Fire with Picture of Ballplayers

A four-year-old youngster who apparently doesn't like baseball players started a fire which destroyed the kitchen of a home at 5003 Lee St. early Saturday morning.

Firemen said that Ronald Soto held a picture of baseball players over the stove burner, igniting it. Frightened, he chucked it into a wastepaper basket. Then he woke up his mother, Mrs. Al Soto, and told her "Mommy, there's smoke in the house."

## Chief Announces Police Reshuffle

Capt. John Maestri will be in charge of the newly created uniform division of the Torrance Police Department, effective as of Feb. 1. Police Chief Percy Bennett announced.

In that capacity, he will head the patrol and traffic bureaus.

Another transfer will shift Lt. D. C. Cook from head of the juvenile bureau to the uniformed division, and Lt. Gus Rethwisch will assume command of the juvenile bureau.

## Small Business Lecture

Merchants, industrialists and interested persons may now take advantage of a small business lecture series being offered for the first time by the Torrance Evening High School, according to Victor Kilburn, principal.

The lecture series will be given every Tuesday for seven weeks, beginning Feb. 3 in the Educational Materials Building, opposite the Torrance Unified School District Administration Building on Plaza del Amo from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

## Hungry Thief Nabbed Through Path of Litter

A path of carelessly discarded ice cream wrappers led police to the arrest of a man on suspicion of stealing food from the Howard Wood School.

Booked on suspicion of burglary was Anthony Soto, 18, of 2562 W. 135th St. Police said that he apparently had given some of the 144 ice cream bars stolen from the school to a friend, who tossed them on his lawn.

Also taken in the burglary were two turkeys, butter and cheese.

## Bar Owner Battles for Show License

Hearing of an appeal by a Carson bar owner against the revocation of his dance and show licenses will be held by the License Appeals Board on Feb. 18 at 11 a. m.

Jack Tetik, owner of the Fancy Free at 24019 S. Avalon Blvd., was granted permission to operate his establishment until his appeal is heard. His license was revoked by the County Public Welfare Commission.

Objections to the entertainment and customers were filed with the commission by the Sheriff's Department on the grounds that they were not compatible with public welfare.

## May Pick Official

Selection of a new director of public works may be presented to the City Council Tuesday by City Manager George Stevens.

Six men are on the eligibility list for his choice following a second examination for the post. The salary for the position has been set at \$1195 per month with a further raise indicated.



NEAR TRAGEDY—Mrs. Jean Kasten and her daughter, Lori, 3, inspect the now covered excavation at Maricopa St. and Patronella Ave., into which Lori fell Wednesday afternoon. Her mother rescued her from the eight-foot deep hole dug for an industrial fire hydrant.



FIRST DONATION—Mayor Albert Isen, 1959 YMCA campaign chairman, presents a Century Club certificate to Lester Foster, principal of Columbia School, center, who donated \$100 to the drive, while Norman Bostick, YMCA youth drive chairman, looks on.

## YMCA Gets First Donation in Drive to Raise \$30,000

The 1959 fund campaign of the Torrance YMCA was kicked off by the \$100 donation by a school principal.

The first contribution to the \$30,000 campaign was made by Lester Foster, principal of Columbia School, and a board member of the Y.

The contribution was accepted by Mayor Albert Isen who is serving as campaign chairman this year. He presented Foster with a Century Club certificate.

Isen said that the YMCA must raise \$30,000 during the drive in order to keep up with the demands for youth services in the community. He reminded that the YMCA does not receive Community Chest funds and that all its income must come from families and firms.

Norman Bostick, Y youth drive chairman, pointed out that the \$100 donation will enable four underprivileged boys to attend summer camp or would finance the Y's junior basketball league.

He said that teenaged Y members have pledged a \$1500 goal to be raised by themselves because of the organization's need for funds.

Isen and Bostick surprised Foster at his office Tuesday where they presented him with the Century Club membership.

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## Mother Rescues Toddler

Tragedy was narrowly averted when a mother pulled her young daughter out of a water-filled excavation near the Civic Center.

Lori Kasten, 3, who was playing with some other children at Maricopa St. and Patronella Ave., suddenly plunged into the hole which was about eight feet deep, and covered with two feet of water at the bottom.

Alerted by the other children, who observed the accident, the mother, Mrs. Jean Kasten of 902 Cerise Ave., dashed to the scene and pulled her daughter out.

The child escaped with hip and ear injuries and was taken to a doctor for a checkup.

The excavation, which was four feet wide and eight feet long, was dug for an industrial fire hydrant being installed in the industrial tract.

The hole and several others in the area were immediately ordered covered by police.

## Schools Ask for U.S. Funds

Some \$13,000 in federal aid for purchase of new equipment will be sought by the Torrance Unified School District, the Board of Education decided.

A newly passed federal law provides that the federal government will match district funds which will be used for purchase of certain teaching equipment. Officials are not sure that Torrance's application will be approved, since many districts are seeking the same aid.

If the money is provided new equipment for teaching mathematics, science and foreign languages would be purchased.

In addition, the district will apply for \$2500, which would be used to improve the Torrance testing program. Intelligence, aptitude and interest tests are given to all local students. These help teachers in counselling students and planning instructional programs.

## Riviera Postal Service Stays in Redondo Beach

Hollywood Riviera residents will continue to receive their mail through the Redondo Beach post office.

Verne Scoggins, regional operations director of the Post Office Department, said that the area will not be transferred to the Torrance post office because the majority of the residents oppose the change.

Torrance city officials and the Chamber of Commerce have been seeking Torrance postal addresses for all parts of Torrance.

## Union Carbide Blast Rocks Area

An explosion at the Union Carbide plant rocked a wide area of Torrance Friday.

Battalion Chief Gordon Northington of the Torrance fire department said that there were no injuries and apparently little or no damage. The explosion occurred in the polyethylene unit of the plant and sent plumes of smoke into the air.

The automatic carbon dioxide sprinkling system was immediately set off and doused the fire.

## SMALL BOAT CLASS

A 12-week class in small boat handling and navigation meeting Monday evenings begins on Feb. 2 at Fern Avenue School cafeteria, Elm and Eldorado Sts., from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 • 2 •

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1959

NUMBER 78